

Message Text

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4*

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 NEA-10 IO-14

DRC-01 FEA-02 INT-08 TRSE-00 /156 W

----- 105960

R 151558Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7094

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, UK, XF, ETRD

SUBJECT: US TRADE UNION LEADER EXPECTED TO SEEK ITF
SUPPORT FOR ARAB SHIPPING BOYCOTT

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: CHARLES BLYTH, GENERAL SECRETARY,
INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT WORKERS' FEDERATION (ITF),
INFORMED THE EMBASSY LABOR ATTACHE THAT HE EXPECTS TED
GLEASON, PRESIDENT, INTERNATIONAL LONGSHOREMEN'S
ASSOCIATION (ILA), TO SEEK ITF SUPPORT FOR A SHIPPING
BOYCOTT OF GOODS FROM ARAB COUNTRIES IN RESPONSE TO
THEIR OIL EMBARGO POLICY. END SUMMARY

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2. BLYTH EXPLAINED THAT G EASON WILL BE IN LONDON THIS

WEEK TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ITF FAIR PRACTICES COMMITTEE MEETING, JANUARY 17-18, WHICH DEALS WITH "FLAGS OF CONVENIENCE" ISSUES. (OTHER AMERICAN TRADE UNION LEADERS WHO ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND INCLUDE: JOHN BOWERS (ILA); MEL PARASIC AND JIM MARTIN, NATIONAL MARITIME UNION (NMU). BLYTH SAID THAT THE GROUP WHICH IS MEETING THIS WEEK DOES NOT, IN FACT, HAVE THE POWER TO ACT ON GLEASON'S REQUEST. THIS IS THE FUNCTION OF THE ITF GENERAL COUNCIL, WHICH DOES NOT MEET UNTIL AUGUST.

3. BLYTH ENVISAGES SCANT SUPPORT FOR THE ILA LEADER'S INITIATIVE AND INDICATED THAT HE HAD LITTLE SYMPATHY FOR IT HIMSELF. HE ASSERTED THAT "IT (A BOYCOTT) WOULD BE ASKING WESTERN NATIONS TO COMMIT SUICIDE IN VIEW OF THE LIKELIHOOD OF ARAB RETALIATION." (IN PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS WITH BLYTH AND HIS ASSISTANT SECRETARY, HAROLD LEWIS, THEY INDICATED THAT THE ITF, PARTLY BECAUSE OF HAVING BOTH ARAB AND ISRAELI AFFILIATES, WISHED TO REMAIN NEUTRAL IN THE MIDDLE EAST).

SOHM

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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